

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON COLBY TESTIMONY

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED IN ANTICIPATION OF
PRESS QUESTIONS I ON CIA INVOLVEMENT IN GREECE:

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE STAR ARTICLE ON
JULY 10, WHICH DESCRIBED AN INTIMATE WORKING RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN CIA AND THE GREEK INTELLIGENCE SERVICES?

A. AS A GENERAL RULE, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS
ABOUT CIA OPERATIONS.

Q. ACCORDING TO A WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON JULY 3,
CIA DIRECTOR-DESIGNATE COLBY, TESTIFYING BEFORE THE SENATE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON JULY 2, SAID THAT HE COULD NOT
CONCLUSIVELY ANSWER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT GREEK
PREMIER PAPADOPOULOS HAD EVER BEEN ON THE CIA PAYROLL.
THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS OTHER ALLEGATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME
ABOUT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN-PAPADOPOULOS AND THE CIA.
CAN THE DEPARTMENT THROW ANY LIGHT ON THIS QUESTION?

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A. MR. COLBY HAS TESTIFIED ON THIS MATTER BEFORE

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. I HAVE AVAILABLE A FOR ANY

CORRESPONDENT WHO MIGHT WISH A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN ON MR. COLBY'S TESTIMONY.

2. SENATOR SYMINGTON STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TOOK TESTIMONY TODAY FROM MR. WILLIAM E. COLBY, PRESIDENT NIXON'S NOMINEE TO BE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

"MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONED MR. COLBY ABOUT THE CIA BUDGET AND ABOUT PROGRAMS EMBRACED IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET. HE TESTIFIED CANDIDLY WITH RESPECT TO THESE MATTERS WHICH ARE CLASSIFIED.

"MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO FOLLOW UP ON CERTAIN MATTERS DISCUSSED BY MR. COLBY WHEN HE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AT A PUBLIC HEARING ON HIS NOMINATION ON MONDAY, JULY 2.

"IN THAT DISCUSSION, MR. COLBY AGAIN STATED THAT THE CIA DID NOT, AS RECENTLY REPORTED, ENGINEER THE 1967 MILITARY COUP IN GREECE. HE SAID COLONEL GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS WAS NOT AFFILIATED WITH CIA IN ANY WAY.

"MR. COLBY FURTHER STATED: 'THE CIA NEVER PAID MR. PAPADOPOULOS ANY MONEY. THE ONLY ASSOCIATION THE AGENCY EVER HAD WITH MR. PAPADOPOULOS OF ANY KIND WAS IN HIS CAPACITY AS AN OFFICER OF THE GREEK INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, WITH WHICH WE HAVE MAINTAINED A LIAISON RELATIONSHIP SINCE THE GREEK CIVIL WAR IN THE LATE 1940'S.#

"MR. COLBY STATED THAT HE WILL BE HAPPY TO TESTIFY WHENEVER THE COMMITTEE OR THE SUBCOMMITTEE REQUESTS THAT HE DO SO." ROGERS

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